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#### Cover

A huge crane lowers materials into a structure during the early phases of a barracks construction operation at Camp Red Cloud in 1999. The Corps of Engineers are currently putting the finishing touches on the project.

Photo by Yo, Kyong II



#### **Features**

#### An 'EXPO' of the new millennium

'New Millennium Smiles' greet visitors in Kyongju at the former Shilla Dynasty capital city during the Kyongju Culture EXPO. East meets west, and traditional culture blends with the present in an explosion of imagination.



A Korean War Medal of Honor recipient fought hard defending freedom and Page protecting his unit. He fought just as

hard to carry on in his own life following a reality he wishes no one else ever has to experience again.

#### Revisiting Inchon, Sept. 1950



Fifty years ago last month U.N. Forces stormed ashore at Inchon. Commemorations held around the peninsula try to keep the spirit of heros alive as well as render honor to them and the sacrifices they made here.

#### Departments & Features

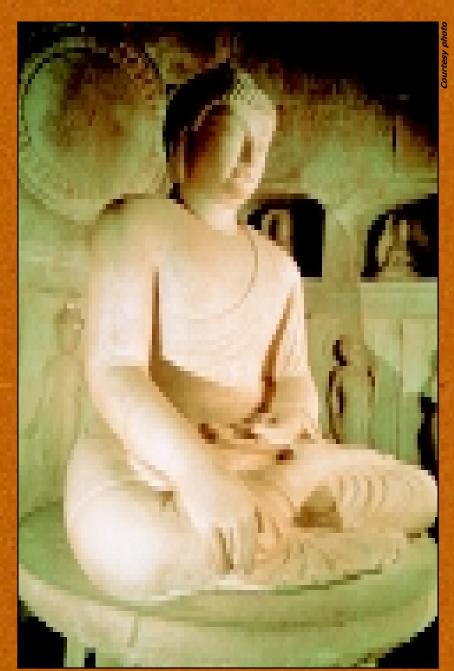
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### KYONGJU WORLD CULTURE

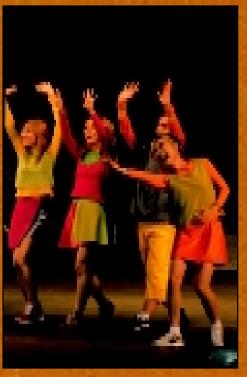


Story and photos by Sgt. John R. Rozean

trip to the city of Kyongju takes the traveler back more than a thousand years to the days of the Shilla dynasty when the city was the capital of the entire peninsula. Any day of the year, it would be difficult for the site seeker to not find something interesting to look at in Kyongju, but from now until Nov. 10 it is nearly impossible.

In the Powmun Lake Resort and downtown area, the Kyongju World Cultural EXPO 2000 kicked off last month with an excitement born from the new millennium.

"It is fitting during this hopeful new millennium age that (the "EXPO") embrace the human race's most desired dreams and wishes," said Lee, Eui-Geoun, chairman of

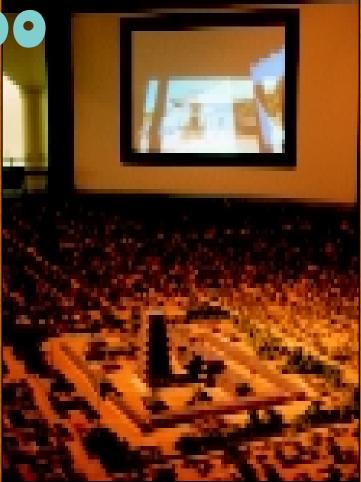


(Above left) Southeast of Kyongju, the Sakyamuni Buddha faces the east at the Sokkuram Grotto, a cave like structure which houses the magnificent statue constructed out of granite in the mid-eighth century.

The statue still sits high in the mountains southeast of Kyongju. Visitors are restricted from getting too close to the Buddha by a glass case, but at this year's EXPO, one can become a butterfly in a computer generated virtual reality tour and get within inches of the ancient construction. (Above right) At the Baekgyel Performance Ground, actors present a theme performance which explores a collision of imagination and coexistence between the East and the West.

## EXPO 2000





the EXPO's organizing committee.

"In Kyongju, you will feel the magnificent cultural tradition and idealistic model for a new culture for human beings to pursue. No where else in Korea is a better place to have such an EXPO," said Lee, Jung-Bae, organizing committee secretary general.

The city holds on to traditional Korean culture more than a lot of cities in Korea, according to Lee, Jeong Cheol, a Seoul travel agent who has many satisfied customers visiting the event this year.

"It is a wonderful experience that I encourage for everyone," he said. "I see lots of smiling faces."

Perhaps those are "New Millennium Smiles," which is one of the themes for this years event, along with the "New Millennium Breath," a breath that symbolizes a new cultural beginning.

Not only can one experience the Korean culture there but displays also highlight cultures from around the world.



(Upper left photo) Hwarang (left) and Wonhwa, the expo's mascots, dance in front of the Garden for Peace and Unification. (Above) A model of the city of Kyongju during the time of the Shilla dynasty highlights the Hwanyongsa (Yellow Dragon Temple), which burnt down in 1238 and only the foundation stones are left today. Not only can EXPO goers see the model version of the tower at the Oriental Culture Hall, they can also experience the tower by virtual reality at the Breath of Sorabal exhibit. (Left) Anacong plays Dance Dance Revolution with more than the thirty friends in the Cyber Character Hall. (Bottom left)



Television monitors show the human face Soomaksae, which is a convex roof tile that would be found at building eave edges during the Shilla period and is also an EXPO symbol representing world cultural unification. A Shilla era figurine of a typical civil official is displayed in the back ground.

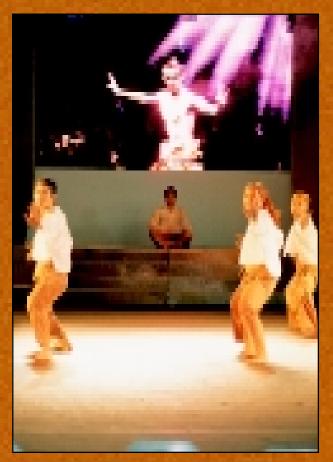
"It is not just a celebration of (Korean) culture but of the world's," said Lee, Jung-Bae.

He said that the EXPO officials would do all they can to accommodate U.S. military members, including a discounted rate for entrance to the exhibits. The hotels in Kyongju also offer 30 percent discounts to EXPO-goers.

To inhale the new millennium breath in person, contact your installation U.S.O to see what tours are available or get in touch with a local travel agent.







(Upper left) The EXPO's logo is constructed out of cactus plants in the Garden of Peace and Unification. (Upper right) The performers' movements appear to be synchronized with one another as well as the movement of the image on the huge monitor in the background. (Left) Dancers participate in a street show. Several dancers, dressed in traditional clothing, from all around the world, participate in EXPO parades. (Lower left) A family tries to touch a hologram





that appears
as if it could
be touched
until the
curious get
too close.
(Bottom right)
A demonstrator gets some
serious air
exhibiting a
traditional
Korean
seesaw.

## Balanced Readiness

#### by Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz

y theme for this huddle with you is balanced readiness.
Balanced Readiness is tied to the proper balance of three key areas: Training, Infrastructure, and Quality of Life. It is also directly tied to warfighting readiness.

All of us serve to promote peace on "Freedom's Frontier" – A tough mission that requires hard work by our joint and combined team of teams.

To achieve balanced readiness we must train, equip, maintain, and care for our servicemembers and their families. This enables us to recruit, retain, and care for a quality force of professionals. It also means that balanced readiness requires a delicate balance among mission accomplishment, and care for our infrastructure and quality of life needs. Our ability to fight tonight and win is tied to the proper balance of these three essential areas.

Our training continues at the right pace. I am proud of what I see! Our training is carefully planned and executed to ensure we are combat ready, but not at the expense of breaking our people or equipment.

It is important to remember that training remains our first priority.

We have a good overall training program that enables our servicemembers to participate in tough, realistic programs from individual events to theater level exercises.

Training in Korea also offers us the unique opportunity to train with our Joint Services, Reservists and our Republic of Korea Allies – We train to fight, and win as a team of teams! Training is the bond that keeps our great alliance together!

New barracks, community activity centers, and gyms have already opened - Balanced Readiness is what pulls this together! My goal is to make Korea the assignment of choice - recognized throughout the military as a professionally and personally rewarding experience.

But equally important is having sound infrastructure that supports training readiness. There are 92 installations in Korea that serve as support facilities and training platforms. I want you to know that replacing outdated structures and improving work, living, and play areas is a top priority. Across the peninsula, you will see improvements to ranges, roads, training,



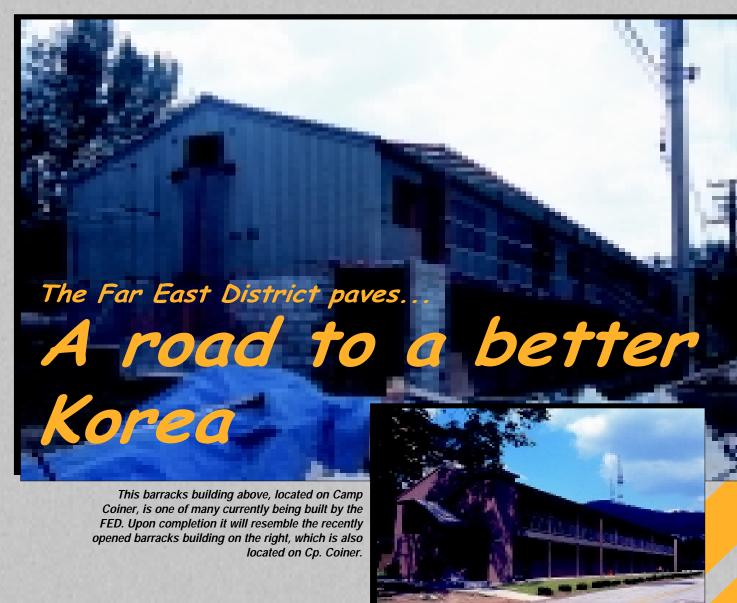
Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz Commander: U.S. Forces Korea Commander in Chief: United Nations Command and ROK/U.S. Combined Forces Command

and marshaling areas.

My goal is to find efficiencies and invest in enduring installations that offer living and working conditions that will be equal to or better than those in the United States. These important projects enhance training readiness and promote pride in our organizations. It also shows that we care and are working to make a positive difference in the lives of our servicemembers and their families.

Likewise, quality of life supports warfighting readiness, too. Our medical, housing, recreation, commissary, dining and family support activities are very important to you - I know this. Servicemembers simply perform better when their needs and expectations are met. New barracks, community activity centers, and gyms have already opened - Balanced Readiness is what pulls this together! My goal is to make Korea the assignment of choice - recognized throughout the military as a professionally and personally rewarding experience.

Let me end by thanking you for your sacrifices. Serving in Korea is hard work and it is through balanced readiness that we stand proud, motivated and ready.



Story by Pfc. Edgar R. Gonzalez

ilitary leaders here in Korea have launched several campaigns with the intent of making Korea one of the best assignments in the military.

Spearheading this objective is the Far East District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Korea is a wonderful place to be," said Col. Gregory S. Kuhr, commander, FED.

"With its diverse and unique culture, it has the opportunity to provide a quality of life far better than what you'll find in most installations in the U.S.," he said. "It's our mission to attain that."

With over 400 construction projects currently in effect throughout

the peninsula, the FED is literally building a better Korea. They are charged with providing new and renovating training facilities, gyms, barracks, flood control systems and all other structures essential to the U.S. Forces Korea mission.

"We provide direct support to all services assigned to USFK. Commanders tell us what they need built, and we make it happen," said Kuhr.

Money, of course, gets the final say in what gets done and what doesn't. But, Kuhr said, "The senior leadership of all the services have worked very hard and been successful in getting (financial) support from Congress."

Much of this funding has gone to improve the 2nd Infantry Division's

"Warrior Country."

The Tongduchon Resident Office is responsible for contract administration of an approximately \$155 million program to replace 350 Korean War era quonset huts with modern facilities, following flood damage from Typhoon Olga in August 1998.

"This will improve the quality of life for the roughly 8,000 2ID soldiers by constructing ten 200-soldier barracks, four 48-soldier Bachelor Officer Quarters, 20 company operations facilities, three dining facilities, five vehicle maintenance facilities, a physical fitness center and numerous warehouses and administrative facilities," said Woody Bargar, Tongduchon resident engineer.

Isaac Gonzales, the quality assurance representative for Uijongbu, takes great pride in making sure these projects meet the standards their users deserve.

"I was in the Army for 15 years. I was a first sergeant, so taking care of soldiers is in my blood," he said. "I believe in what I do, and I'm happy to give soldiers what they need."

With its newly completed headquarters building and adjacent barracks, Company B, 122nd Signal Battalion is enjoying the program. The company recently relocated from older buildings in Camp Casey to new ones in Camp Red Cloud.

"The buildings are much better," said Staff Sgt. Aruna G. Matthews, a Node Center Switch System operator with 122nd Signal Bn.

"They are more modern," he said. "The moving process naturally had its difficulties, but all in all it's a drastic improvement. The laundry room in my barracks is the most wonderful thing I've ever seen. It has 30 washers!"

The servicemembers who train at the Korean Training Center's Live Fire Complex are just as excited by the improvements made there.

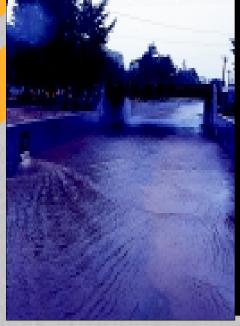
When told that the new, unlabeled buildings would soon be replacing the tents he was accustomed to staying in, Chief Warrant Officer (2) Gary Rubianes, an attack pilot with the Assassins Troop, 16th Cavalry Regiment, did not hold back his enthusiasm.

"Really!" he said, "I was hoping they'd be for us. That's outstanding. This place has really improved."

The LFC plays a vital role to our mission. It is the only place in Korea to qualify tanks, Bradleys and aviation. It is the only place in Korea to conduct platoon live fire qualification.

The FED went in there and improved the flood control system, added firing positions and constructed two kilometers of road.

"Before (the improvements) we were limited to qualify-



This canal allows rainfall to harm-lessly escape. Korea's weather makes flood control systems a vital part of any installation's makeup.

ing individual crews, and we were limited on what maneuvers they could perform," said J.C. Clark, the LFC officer in charge. "Now we can train entire platoons at a time and practice more advanced and realistic maneuvers. They really helped us maximize the use of the complex."

The average number of soldiers using the complex each day has grown from 600 to 1,500. The range can now also be customized to fit its user, be it a ground or air vehicle, in under an hour.

"It's much easier to train not having to worry about things we shouldn't have to worry about. It's easier to maintain focus on targets and on our plan without having to endure leaky roofs or changeover delays," said Chief Warrant Officer (2) Lisa K. Justice, an attack pilot with A Troop.

The improvements were not limited to the range, but

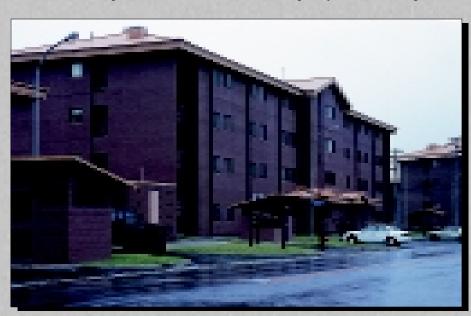
were spread out to cover all the facets that go into making the LFC a worldclass training center.

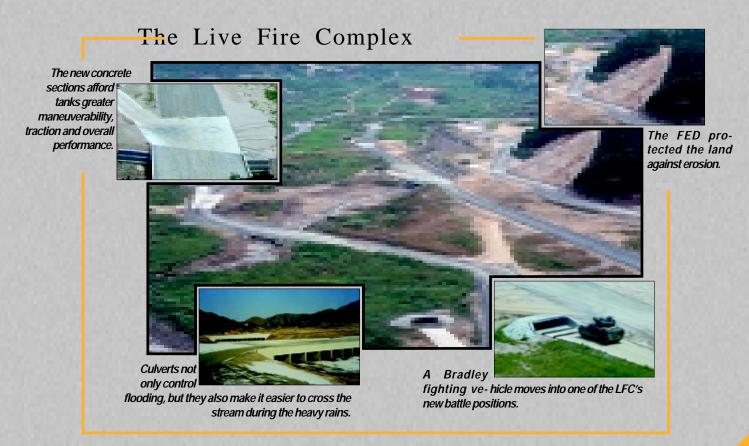
When the aviators called for a concrete pad to serve as their forward air refuel point, the FED made the concrete thick enough to also support tanks to fully optimize the space.

"They looked at every aspect," said Master Sgt. William T. Parsons, the noncommissioned officer in

#### Continued on page 16

Company B, 122 Signal Bn.'s brand new fourstory barracks building, located in Camp Red Cloud, is conveniently located next to the company's headquarters. The barracks building is one of many new such buildings in the camp.





charge of the LFC. "We even have a maintenance bay for crew chiefs to work on their vehicles when it's raining."

Spc. Kwame Opoku, an Apache AH-64 crew chief with A Troop, noticed and appreciated the improvements.

"I'm glad I don't have to work on a gravel road anymore," he said. "Also, there are little things that make a difference. We can stay better focused on our mission when we don't have to waste time doing things like lugging drinking water back and forth."

"Soldiers are usually here for weeks at a time, so quality of life is important to them and to the mission," said Clark.

The same is true throughout the peninsula.

"We have a family housing construction ongoing at Camp Humphreys that will house 180 families," said Kuhr. "We are also planning for additional family housing in Yongsan and are currently renovating the 121st Hospital there."

He said he's noticed drastic improvement since his last tour in Korea in 1992.

"Still," he continued, "there's a lot of work to be done. But there is a plan designed to fix it. By 2008 all soldiers should be housed in barracks that meet Army standards. The (commander in chief) and service component commanders have done an outstanding job putting the plan into effect."

Hand in hand with improving the quality of life is constructing quality structures. The FED makes sure all projects meet the stringent standards the Army enforces worldwide. If this means material needs to be shipped from the U.S., then that's what happens.

After the FED receives a request, they design the project and contract it out. This is just the beginning of their job.

A FED construction manager oversees the entire construction process. He tests all the materials used and makes sure the plans are understood and adhered to. He also ensures safety regulations are followed.

"We take great pride in having a safe working environment," said Rehbein.

Once the job is finished, it undergoes a series of inspections by the FED, Department of Public Works and all other relevant parties. The contractor then fixes any problems, and once the improvements are checked off, the building is open for business.

Still, the contractor is not relieved of his obligation. Under warranty provisions, the building is checked four and nine months after its opening, and the contractor is responsible for fixing any problems.

"We do this to make sure soldiers get what they deserve," said Rehbein. "The number of projects we have going is testament to the commitment the command has to the soldiers and their future here. Many soldiers are only dissatisfied by the fact these facilities weren't provided sooner."

And though he knows that not everything can be finished at one time, he is confident the command's vision will become reality soon enough.

"Construction takes time, but we take pride in ensuring the job is done right," he said. "U.S. facilities in Korea will continue to improve. Soldiers will want to come here."

#### Sec. Def.: military readiness is high

By Jim Garamone American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — People wanting to know if U.S. forces are ready "should ask Saddam Hussein," said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen Sept. 7.

Cohen, visiting Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, said the United States has the best forces in the world.

"I think we should ask (Iraqi dictator) Saddam Hussein whether or not (U.S.) forces were ready to carry out Operation Desert Fox," Cohen said. "I think we should ask (Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic) as to whether or not we were ready to carry out the Allied Force operation in Kosovo."

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said during a Pentagon press conference Sept. 7 that the United States is spending close to \$300 billion per year on national defense. "It's more than all our NATO allies combined are spending," he said.

Bacon said the military could always spend more, but that "the military and civilian leadership have worked very hard in the last several years to meet the needs of the military."

Bacon cited recent pay hikes, pay table reform and revamping the military retirement system as examples of DoD's efforts to make military careers more attractive.

Recruiting has been a problem for the services, but Bacon said these personnel

changes seem to be working and noted all four services will make their fiscal 2000 recruiting goals.

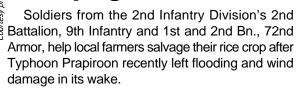
Bacon also said DoD has devoted \$60 billion to modernization in the fiscal 2001 budget, up from \$43 billion in fiscal 1998. Modernization is not only accomplished through new equipment, but also through new ideas. Bacon described the Air Force unmanned aerial vehicle programs as ways to gather intelligence and place it in the hands of those who need it quickly.

He spoke about the Army's efforts to make the service lighter, more mobile and more lethal. The Navy is looking at ways to make ships more modern and more lethal with fewer sailors aboard. "We're working on a variety of projects," Bacon said. "This takes time. It requires a lot of investment, but we won't see the results immediately."

Responding to reporters' questions about troops on food stamps, Bacon said that unfortunately some people in the military qualify for them, but the number is dropping. A total of 19,400 service members received food stamps in 1991. "Today we estimate that there are 5,100 people on food stamps," Bacon said.

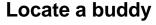
He noted that DoD has asked Congress for authority to take over the program for active duty service members. By not considering housing allowances as income, which the Agriculture Department does, DoD could actually increase the number of service members eligible for assistance by 2,500 to 2,800.





"The soldiers should feel good about what they did today. Serving in Korea is more than preparing for combat, it is also about getting in the community and helping out," said Capt. Sidney Gourdine, Co. D, 1-72nd AR.

(Information provided by 2ID and Area I Public Affairs Offices.)



A web site is available to help soldiers locate fellow soldiers whom they have lost contact with over the years.

The site is authorized for use by anyone with a .gov or .mil domain. The website can be found at http://wwl.erec.army.mil

#### U.S. Army gets new, improved PT uniform

Army recruits are being issued the Improved Army Physical Fitness Uniform while sizes to fit most soldiers have been available across the peninsula since August.

A complete set includes a water-resistant, hoodless jacket; black water resistant pants; black moisture wicking shorts and long sleeve shirts. The set will set soldiers back about \$110, more than double the price of the old uniform.

The uniform's mandatory possession date is Oct. 1, 2003, when all soldiers will be required to have one jacket, one pair of pants, two sets of trunks, and two short sleeves and one long sleeved T-shirt.

A recent DA message allows both the old and the new fitness uniforms in formations, but soldiers should keep in mind that regulations prohibit them from mixing old items with new items.



#### Army spouse wins gold in Olympics

By Tim Hipps

SYDNEY, Australia – A U. S. Army spouse was the first athlete to strike gold down under in the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

Nancy Johnson, wife of Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson, scored 9.9 points to break a first-place deadlock on her 10th and final shot in the women's 10-meter air rifle finale last month. She defeated Korea's Cho-Hyun Kang, 497.7 to 497.5, in a climactic frenzy for the first gold medal of the 28th Olympiad at Cecil Park Shooting Centre.

"I did it! I did it!" Johnson exclaimed moments after realizing her historic feat. "I won the first gold medal at the Olympics!" Make that the first gold medal of the Millennium Games.

"The fact that it's the first one is awesome," said Johnson, 26, of Hinsdale, Ill. "That's pretty cool. They can't take this one away." She considered the victory a redemption for finishing a disappointing 36th in the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta.

"To be able to hold on and constantly move up is a good feeling," she said. "There was a pack of us in there with the same score, so it was anybody's game. I usually keep track of where I am. But because the scoreboard was above my head, every

time I looked up I was looking into the lights, so I didn't want to do that. So I stopped looking.

"I just got over it and went out there with a smile on my face," Johnson said of the final round. "And went out there to do my best."

The women's competition consists of 40 shots fired from the standing position within 75 minutes, with the top eight shooters entering a 10-round final with 75 seconds per shot. In the finals, the bull's-eye is one-half millimeter wide — less than one-fiftieth of an inch.

"My dad got me into shooting at age 15," she explained. "I wanted to try archery originally, but there wasn't anything around that was available to me. But there was a local rifle club."

"She's been training at Fort Benning for the last three years now," said her husband, who married Nancy in 1998. "She trains with the Army and works with the Army coach.

"It could've been the last gold medal, and it could've been one in the middle. But being that it's the first, and for the United States, and my wife – you can't beat that," said Ken.

(Tim Hipps is the Army Community and Family Support Center Olympics correspondent in Sydney, Australia.)

# Recognizing Hispanic contributions



National Hispanic Heritage month began Sept. 15 and continues until Oct 15.

(Above) Col. Steven D. Holtman, 34th Support Group commander, introduces 94th Military Police Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Raul Salinas (right) as the guest speaker at a kick-off ceremony held at the Dragon Hill Lodge last month.

The event focused on the accomplishments of many American Hispanics.

#### Learning from each other

The 'MEDREG 2000' Joint Medical Exercise was a classic example of the continued realistic battle focused training efforts and cooperation of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and the Republic of Korea Armed Forces. (On the right) ROK medics practice evacuating a patient. At both Korean and American combat support hospital settings in the Osan/Taejon area, the exercise revealed the subtle differences in each service's field equipment.

"This is a very meaningful exercise. After this exercise, as allied military forces, we will be able to be a strong (team) and provide sound service," said ROK Major Cho, C1. Combined Forces Command Medical Operations officer.

(From an 18th MEDCOM Public Affairs News Release.)



#### Largest Osan protest ever ends peacefully

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea - Despite the presence of about 400 people from the student group Hanchongnyon outside Osan's main gate, a 75-minute protest took place without any property damage or clashes between the protesters and either the Korean National Police or U.S. military members.

During other protests on the peninsula, Hanchongyon members have sometimes clashed with local police and damaged U.S. government property.

Although the protest turned out to be peaceful, Osan's leadership, their Republic of Korea Air Force counterparts and the KNP didn't take any chances. About 2,000 KNP officers, ROKAF police, 51st CES and other 51st Fighter Wing members were in place at either Osan or Air Force Village to ensure things remained in control.

"This combined approach to the protest shows how effectively we cooperate with our ROKAF partners and the KNP," said Air Force Col. Neil Kanno 51st Support Group commander.

While protests in Korea like this one have recently taken an anti-American slant, Pacific Air Forces commander, Gen. Patrick K. Gamble, said that military members should remember why U.S. forces are here.

After all, "we're here to protect (their free speech) rights," he said. "Our concern is when (the protest) turns hostile or violent. The ROK government is very concerned about this too, and they are working that issue very hard."

(From a MIG Alley FLYER article written by Air Force Master Sgt. John Norgren.)

#### Check it out



Seventy-five youngsters from the Songtan school were invited on to Camp Humphreys last month to learn more about the equipment as well as the soldiers stationed there. (Above) Students from the All Children's World Preschool try out features on the 377th Medical Company's Medical Evacuation helicopter.

"Lately all we hear about are the demonstrations at different military posts. Unfortunately, you don't hear enough about the great relationships we share," said 1st Lt. Peter Song, Apache pilot, 6th Cavalry Brigade.

(From an Area III news release.)

#### **USFK CDR listens for opinions**

To reach out to every military and Department of Defense civilian member throughout the peninsula, a questionnaire was developed to solicit information and ideas. Units are distributing it to individuals via DoD email.

The questionnaire is part of a major campaign by the USFK commander to improve the quality of life for our military communities. The commander's objective is to make Korea an assignment of choice for military members and spouses.

The six-question questionnaire is

designed to get the troops' (at all levels) perspective," said Casmir Nitkowski, of the Korean Tour Image Enhancement Working Group, which has been designated to evaluate the survey results.

"We plan to saturate the command and get everyone's opinion. Their input will help improve quality of life in Korea for themselves and future members," he said.

A cost of living questionnaire is also in the works.

(From an Area II Public Affairs news release.)

#### **Burning some rubber**

military installation in Asia, the Daytona



The only facility of its kind on a West Speedway, located on Camp Humphreys, is now offering a special group tour package. The package includes lunch and two hours of action packed, uninterrupted racing.

> "This is a perfect opportunity to schedule something different and fun for your unit, your private organization, your church, your youth group or for a special birthday party," said Area III **Business Operations Division Chief** Larry Gennaccaro.

> The deal "is a complete package at a very affordable price," said Gennaccaro. For more information, 753 - 3101.

> (Photo Left) Racers zoom around one of the tracks tight corners.

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# Getting a foothold . . . After stepping out of the trenches

by Pfc. Edgar R. Gonzalez

n Nov. 2, 1953,
David D. Bleak stood
before President Dwight
D. Eisenhower on the White
House lawn as the president
awarded him the highest military
medal in the American military –
the Medal of Honor.

Such exalted standing and merit was a far cry from the innocent and common instincts that placed an 18-year-old boy in the position to earn them.

"I enlisted," said Bleak. "I was just a young kid who wanted to go out and see the world."

And see the world he did.

After completing his Initial Entry
Training, Bleak was sent to
Japan, where he prepared for
battle in Korea.

"Back then," said Lois, his wife of 40 years, "people didn't even know where Korea was."

"Our involvement in Korea was commonly referred to as a 'Police Action," said Bleak.

But he quickly found out what it was really about.

"While training in Japan, we had quite a few World War II veterans swiftly tell us what we were getting into," he said.

"They said, 'Take this training seriously, lads, because we're sending you out there to get shot."

David B. Bleak along with six other Korean War Medal of Honor recipients were presented with honorary Korean medals by retired Republic of Korea Army Gen. Paik, Sun Yup in a special ceremony held at Yongsan's Knight Field last summer.



After a year in Japan, he left for Korea as part of an advanced scout unit with the 23rd Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division.

"We landed in Inchon," remembered Bleak, "and we didn't see anything but ruins.
The city had been decimated by

Why me? Why not the rest of them? Everybody was doing the things I received the award for.

war. All civilians had left."

He was the senior medic, so when they were ordered to provide some men to infiltrate the enemy, he volunteered.

"We needed a bunch of prisoners to interrogate to see what China was doing," he said. "We'd go in, do the mission, then get out."

It wasn't that simple.
On June 14, 1952, near
Minari-gol, his group became

the target of intense automatic weapons fire and suffered several casualties.

After administering first aid to the wounded, he continued to

advance with the patrol.

Nearing the military
crest of the hill, he once
again came under
hostile fire from a
small group of the
enemy concealed in a
trench.

Entering the trench, Bleak closed in on and attacked the enemy, killing two with his bare hands and a third with his trench knife.

"In close hand-to-hand battle, it's hard to explain what happens because things move so fast," he said. "You can't stop and think,

you just do it."

Moving from the emplacement, he saw a grenade fall in front of his buddy. Bleak quickly shifted his position, shielding the man from the impact of the blast.

"If you can help someone, you do it," he said. "You don't think. You have a job to do, and you do it. That's how we all were."

Later, while administering first aid to a casualty, he was struck by an enemy's bullet. Despite the wound, he still endeavored to evacuate his patient.

"The only way to get back was to keep going and hope for the best," he said.

As he moved down the hill, carrying the wounded soldier, two enemy soldiers with fixed bayonets attacked him. Closing with the aggressors, he grabbed them and neutralized them by smacking their heads together. He was then finally able to deliver his companion to safety.

"You go in as a unit, not as one man," Bleak explained.

These were the actions that earned him the Medal of Honor.

"I guess a couple of guys were taking mental notes," he said as to how his behavior was noticed.

Bleak didn't know about the award until much later.

After his tour in Korea was up, he volunteered

Mr. and Mrs. Bleak take time to pose for a photo after a banquet held at the Dragon Hill Lodge for the Korean War Medal of Honor recipients following their award presentation.



### If you can help someone, you do it. That's how (American soldiers) are.

to stay on and was again sent to Japan.

"While I was stationed in Japan, my commander called me in to his office one day. 'Oh oh,' I thought, 'I did something bad.""

That's when he found out he had been awarded the Medal.

How did he react?

"Why me? Why not the rest of them?" he wondered. "Everybody was doing the things I received the award for."

After his tour in the military, Bleak went back home to Idaho to work at his last job at a nuclear power plant.

But like with many veterans, the transition was not an easy one.

"I was a lot more nervous (after the war)," he said. "It took me one year to get my feet back on the ground."

"He would have these terrible flashbacks that would wake him up in the middle of the night," his wife said.

"I felt bad about waking her up," he said. "It was tough. I also missed the people in my company."

Today Bleak keeps close ties with the military.

"I like to keep up with events and make sure that the training today's soldiers are receiving will qualify them to do the same things we did.

"But," he continues, "I hope that none of them will receive the Medal of Honor," since it is only awarded during wartime.

"But in case we do get into another war," he said, "Americans will continue earning this Medal because that's the kind of men we have." And that's the kind of man David D. Bleak was proud to become.

(The account of Bleak's wartime actions was compiled from the orders which awarded him the Medal of Honor.)

# Pieces of UFL

By Maj. Robert Whetstone 2ID PAO

On cool autumn Saturday afternoons, children scramble throughout their neighborhood to find enough people to play a friendly game of football. Everyone knows the game has been scheduled, but finding enough participants seems to be a challenge. This is not the case with an annual exercise held in the Republic of Korea called Ulchi Focus Lens.

Commonly known as "UFL," this Command Post Exercise involved about 56,000 ROK and 13,000 U.S. servicemembers. Some of the participants deployed from the Continental United States, Japan and Guam. With this number of "players" from many different neighborhoods, one can see why it is the largest CPX in the world and clearly in a league of its own.

UFL was born of two separate exercises. "Ulchi," was a ROK training exercise to prepare for the defense against a North Korean invasion while "Focus Lens" started in 1969 under the command of the United Nations. UFL is designed to

evaluate and improve combined and joint coordination, procedures, plans and ystems necessary for the conduct of contingency operations of ROK and U.S. forces.

Hunkered down in a bunker located on Camp Red Cloud, Staff Sgt. Charles Prussia got a chance to hone his go-to-war skills. "We learned that we need to execute good cross-talk with units to fully understand the massion. UFL made me realize the bigger picture," he said.

Everyone from Taegu to Camp Garry Owen, from all services, ROK and U.S. alike, learned it takes a team effort to be successful. They also learned that UFL is definitely in a league of its own.



Packaged meals by any oth

**EUSA PAO** 

What is this "Jimmy Dean" meal that CP Oscar night shift personnel consumed during the "wee hours" of the morning during this Year's Ulchi Focus Lens?

Actually, Jimmy Dean is an unofficial name – exact origins unknown – for a prepared sandwich meal issued to soldiers when they can't access the local dining facilities.

During this year's Ulchi Focus Lens exercise in Camp Walker, these meals,



Pfc. Jesse Mcleod and technician Mr. Kim, Ho Saeng keep the Video Teleconferencing system up and running in the CP Oscar Control room during the UFL exercise last month.

#### Peaches for you; peaches for me

By Pfc. Kim, Tae Wan **EUSA PAO** 

Of the many ROK/U.S. exchanges that took place during this year's Ulchi Focus Lens exercise, one unique gesture of friendship stood out.

Maj. Gen. Park Jung Joo, Second Republic of Korea Army chief of staff, on behalf of Gen. Kim, In Jong, SROKA commanding general, presented the soldiers of Command Post Oscar, Taegu, with 24 boxes of peaches and 45 boxes of Ramen in a show of gratitude for their service here in Korea.

"We are very thankful to the U.S.

forces in Korea for their role in defending our country. Our gift today is a small token of gratitude, and I hope it will do its part in tightening the ties between our two countries, improving mutual trust and friendship," said Capt. Kang Dong Chul, SROKA headquarters munitions department.

Brig. Gen. (P) Dennis Klein, the Eighth U.S. Army chief of staff, greeted the SROKA general and led him on a tour of CP Oscar.

After the tour of the CP, Park was met by Maj. Gen. Donald Campbell at the Commanding General's office, where the generals discussed varying issues of

interest, including improving cooperation between the ROK and the United States. Later, Campbell presented Park with two letters of gratitude to be given to Gen. Kim, In Jong and a present in appreciation for his visit to the CP.

The peaches and Ramen were given out to each of the sections working in the CP, where it was greatly welcomed by the soldiers.

"I think this is very unique. It's a good gesture and I appreciate what they are doing for us," said Staff Sgt. Roger V. Rodriguez, a driver with the Secretary of the General Staff.

er name . . .

#### taste as sweet?

along with Meals Ready to Eat, were distributed to night-shift participants as night meals.

Unknown to many, "Jimmy Dean" is also a name of a country music singer, song writer and entertainer, who started the Jimmy Dean Meat Company in the United States.

In Camp Walker, soldiers participating in the UFL recieved night meals that were distributed by the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 19th Theater Support Command dining facility.

According to Sgt. First Class Bobby

D. Thomas, manager of the facility, they acquired their supply of night meals (Jimmy Deans & MREs) from Troop Issue Subsistence Activities warehouses in Pier 8, Pusan. Pusan receives its supply of Jimmy Deans from a commercial contractor assigned to bring them directly from the United States.

"We, myself and my ration NCOs, pick up those supplies from Pusan by using the Troop Motor Pool vehicles every two days," Thomas said.

An average of 600 meals were issued out every night, during the night shift at CP Oscar.

#### Looks like we got ourselves a convoy

By Pfc. Nicole C. Adams EUSA PAO

Each unit and section played an important part in the Ulchi Focus Lens mission, but many may have taken for granted one key element – the movement of equipment and supplies to Command Post Oscar, Taegu, during the exercise. The United States Army Troop Command-Korea took care of that imperative element during this year's UFL.

A convoy of two high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles and eight light medium tactical vehicles moved from Yongsan Garrison to Camp Walker, Taegu August 16. The purpose of the convoy was transporting CP Oscar exercise participants' luggage and supplies as well as each section's mission-essential equipment.

Traditionally, during exercises, the cargo had been transported by civilian contracted drivers because the battalion did not have the equipment to do it on their own and hiring contractors was more convenient.

But with plenty of capability, the convoy was implemented for the Reception Staging Onward Movement and Integration exercise in May as a way to use the organic assets that USATC-K has.

"I think this is a good step in the right direction. These units need to rely more on themselves and the assets that they have. All other units deploy themselves, and so should we," said Scott L. Cannon, HHC EUSA training noncommissioned officer in charge.

Preparation for the trip to Taegu began well before the actual departure date with a practice drive to and from Osan Air Base July 31.

Loading for UFL began on the 15th in front of Balboni Theater. At the end of load-up, the convoy moved to the motorpool to conduct final staging, receive any last-minute changes and conduct radio checks.

Then, they were off. Seven hours and several breaks later, the convoy arrived. "I would call it a success because everyone made it here without getting lost and there were no incidents," Cannon said.

# Keeping technical systems up and running

By Spc. Jaion D. Lee EUSA PAO

It is 7 a.m., and the Command Post Oscar, Taegu, Video Teleconferencing control room is already jumping with activity in preparation for the commander in chief's first VTC brief of the day for the staff officers here.

For the Eighth U.S. Army command staff, being able to communicate in a timely manner from separate strategic locations is critical to the prompt execution of EUSA operations as well as the operation of military units scattered throughout U.S. Forces Korea.

"With up to 15 VTC sites on the Korean peninsula, it is vital that the operators have the VTC equipment operational for every scheduled and unscheduled brief that might arise," said Pfc. Jesse Mcleod, a VTC operator with EUSA G-6.

During this year's Ulchi Focus Lens Exercise, the northern hub was based out of CP Tango, and it controlled and distributed the VTC slides and briefings. The northern hub would then forward them down to the southern hub, which was based out of Camp Walker, which provided CP Oscar with the VTC.

Since this system is so important, the G-6 staff deployed personnel to CP Oscar before the advance party arrived. From the time the G-6 staff arrived until UFL's completion, they conducted daily testing on the VTC unit making sure it is was continuously operational.

"The people that maintain the VTC

"The people that maintain the VTC put in a lot of energy and extra hours to make sure it is ready to go at a moment's notice," said McLeod.

Regardless of the connection problems the operators have encountered so far, they still manage to get everything "squared away."

A good thing -- since the command staff relies on the VTC to get quality information out to those who need it.

# Inchon: A forgotten victory

By Jimmy Norris, Area I Public Affaris

eeping the sacrifices of Korean War heros alive is the purpose of many commemorations taking place this year marking the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

"One of the problems we have in our country is we don't keep the spirit of those who gave their lives for freedom," said retired Marine Lt. Col. Thomas Kalus. But, one heroic event, the Inchon Landing, was commemorated at the Inchon Sports Complex Sept. 15, fifty years to the day after its original initiation. Folk dancers, bands and Tae Kwon Do demonstrators from the Republic of Korea's 1st Marine Division gathered to pay tribute to past heros. Veterans of the landing, like Kalus, who attended were glad to receive the recognition, while the active servicemembers were happy to give it to them.

"For fifty years nobody talked about the Korean War much. People don't know how much this kind of recognition means to us. We never said much after the war. We just went back to the world and went on with our lives. Things like this make a big difference," said Korean War veteran Dick Walter.

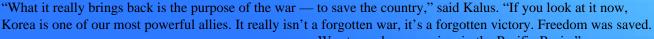
Some soldiers in attendance used the commemoration as an opportunity to meet with, and personally thank, the veterans. "The ones we talked to said they were as proud of us as we were of them. I'm really glad the Army went all out for this and got them here," said Sgt. Duane Gochael, of the 2nd Infantry Divisions's 2nd Engineer Battalion.

"A lot of the veterans looked heartbroken. I think it's good for people in (today's) Army to come to things like this and see who paved the way for us," said Gochael.

"That's why things like this are important," said Kalus.

The commemoration not only brought the veterans their

The commemoration not only brought the veterans their much deserved recognition, but brought back memories.



We stopped communism in the Pacific Basin."

The commemoration was hosted for more than 500 American, 1,000 Korean, and 26 British veterans of the Korean War as well as servicemembers stationed throughout the peninsula.





Marines use scaling ladders to storm ashore in an amphibious invasion. It is one of the fastest operations on record, perfectly timed, with waves of Marines almost stumbling over the preceding ones.

# of the "Forgotten" War



## Landing was vital to re-taking Seoul

By Barry R. Napp Area 1 Public Affairs Officer

uring the grim opening weeks of the Korean War, while American and South Korean forces fought desperately in defense of the Pusan Perimeter, then Far East Commander and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur was already conceiving a bold stroke that would crush the North Korean People's Army. He planned an amphibious assault behind North Korean lines at Inchon, a port city on South Korea's west coast which was close to Seoul and important to North Korean Army supply lines.

Objectives were three-fold: neutralize Wolmi Island, which controlled access to Inchon Harbor, land and capture Inchon, seizing Kimpo Airfield near Seoul, and finally, capture Seoul itself.

Planning for the invasion of Inchon, code-named Operation "CHROMITE," was started in August of 1950 and completed the following month.

The amphibious assault began on the morning of Sept. 15 and the 1st and 5th Marine Regiments of the First Marine Division with the first wave reached Wolmi Island encountering almost no resistance.

Later that afternoon, two other waves of assault forces headed for separate landing areas on Inchon's shoreline, designated Red Beach and Blue Beach. These "beaches" were faced with solid rock sea walls, which the Marines had to climb.

After some intense fighting, both Red and Blue Beach were secured early on the morning of September 16. A solid line now existed around Inchon and escape for any enemy still within the city became unlikely.

Casualties for the X Corps invasion forces were 20 men killed, 1 missing in action and 174 wounded.

Seoul was taken back by forces of the U.S. 7th Inf. Div. and Marines from the 1st Marine Div. on September 27. During this period, most of the 7th Inf. Div. moved southward to block escape routes of North Korean troops attempting to retreat as Eighth U.S. Army broke out of the Pusan Perimeter.

By Oct. 7, with North Korean forces in full retreat, Operation CHROMITE was finally fulfilled, and the allies declared the operation a total victory and arguably one of the most successful operations in military history.



the Korean
War Inchon
Landing
Commemoration
Ceremony
to pay
tribute to
the heros
of the
landing.



PHOTOS BY CPL. CHOI, JOON YUNG



Dancers present a beutiful formation as part of the commemoration.

Every month the KORUS staff travels throughout the peninsula searching for stories to spark our readers' interest. Inevitably, many individuals who are vital to the U.S. Forces Korea mission will be left out of our coverage, but occasionally a few will be given the chance to...

### Represent USFK

Compiled by Pfc. Edgar R. Gonzalez

Spc. Brian M. Mackay is an Apache AH-64 crew chief with the Assassins Troop, 16 Cav, Camp Eagle.

Hometown: Tucson, Az.

What do you like most about Korea? "I enjoy the camaraderie within our troop. It's a small unit, so we have a chance to get along well. We're all buddies."

What do you like about your job within the unit? "There is always something new to learn, new challenges. It's never boring."

What is your unit's mission? "To destroy the enemy. We maintain and use the fiercest aerial force in the world."

Who is the person you respect most in your unit? "The person I respect the most in my unit would be Capt. Moga. He takes the time to listen, and he makes sure en-



Spc. Brian Mackay

listed soldiers are taken care of. He flies my aircraft, so I get to see what a good soldier he is."

How long have you been working for/ with the military and where have you served? "I've been in the Army for three years. I've been stationed at Fort Hood and then here. I also spent six months in Bosnia."

What is your dream duty station? "I'd like to serve with the 43rd CAV in Colorado Springs."

What is the most interesting thing you have seen or done while in Korea? "I spent

a day on a trip to the DMZ with my troop, and I got to see both North and South Korean soldiers. I walked into the conference room where you can walk in North Korea, and that was exciting."

**Your parting shot:** "No one comes close to 16 CAV's excellence!"

fc. Lee, Young Wook, an administrative assistant with HHC Eighth U.S. Army Command Chaplain Office, has gone to school in Hawaii and done mission work in Costa Rica.

**Hometown:** Jeon-ju, Jeon-buk province.

What do you like most about Korea? "I love that Korea has four seasons. In the summer I can go to the beach and get a sun tan. Autumn has

beautiful scenery, especially in the mountains. I like winter's snow, and the springtime is the best season for chilling out."

What do you like about your job within the unit? "Before I joined the Army, I didn't know anything about administration, but now I know how to handle a bunch of things like how the Army gives soldiers leave or sends them TDY. It's improved my organizational skills, which I'll use if I ever have my own company."

What is your unit's mission? "To serve God and help soldiers with religious matters."

Who is the person you respect most in your unit?



Pfc. Lee, Young Wook

"I admire Chaplain Wisdom the most because he's always working for the Army. He is a very considerate and professional person and soldier."

How long have you been in the military? "I've been in for seven months"

What is your dream job? "I'm going to be our new information management officer, and that's exciting. I think I've gained an intuition for administration, and now I'll get to work with a computer and learn a lot about them. It'll really help me after I'm out of the Army."

What is the most interesting thing you have seen or done while in Korea? "After I graduated from my university, some of my fellow graduates and I went to Cheju Island to celebrate. We traveled all around it, going horseback riding, exploring caves and looking at waterfalls. That was a wonderful time.

And after I joined the Army, I went on a tour of the Joint Security Area. That was special to me because it was the first time I truly realized I was a citizen of a nation that is divided."

Your parting shot: "My time as a KATUSA will give me many advantages when it's done, and I'll never forget it. I hope U.S. soldiers also have the wonderful experience of Korea that I've had."

## Soldiers take on the challenge and earn the honor of...

# The best of the year

Story and photos by Pfc. Nicole C. Adams

After multiple displays of their military knowledge and soldier skills, three soldiers were selected as the Eighth U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer, Soldier and Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army of the Year.

Sergeant Scott S. Yochum, Company B, 1st Battalion 9th Infantry Regiment, Camp Casey, took the title of NCO of the Year. Yochum's original intention was to demonstrate to himself how much military knowledge he had.

"I knew about the Army so why not try to use it. It was my way of trying to be the best that I could be."

So far, the best he can be is the best in EUSA. After

winning the first board at the battalion level, he decided to keep competing for himself and his unit, but he never thought he would win everything.

"I had no clue that I was going to win all the way up to Eighth Army."

He feels that having confidence in himself helped him make it so far.

"A lot of people don't have the guts to keep going after they win one board. They call it quits."



**Y**осним

Soldier of the Year, Spc. Corey H.L. Glasford, Co. G 52nd Aviation Regiment, Camp Eagle, didn't think he would make it as far as he did either. He went to the board simply

for a chance at promotion.



GLASFORD

"I wanted to go to the promotion board and (going to the soldier of the month board) was my way of proving my worth. I never thought I would get this far. I just figured there would always be someone out there studying harder than me."

But, after studying for four months from the time he got off of work until the time he went to bed, Glasford must have been the one studying the hardest.



"It takes a serious mind to overcome all of the obstacles and iron determination to keep going when you are so sick and tired of studying."

That determination took him all the way to the end and most likely will help him get that promotion that he initially set out for.

Sgt. Park, Jae Bum, with the 82nd Engineer Co., Camp Edwards, showed that KATUSAs have what it takes to excel in the U.S. Army by winning KATUSA of the Year. He said that KATUSAs are necessary to the U.S. Army in Korea.

He went to his first board in order to gain more

knowledge of the U.S. military and its history and to be a better leader.

"I thought it would be a good chance to be able to activate and motivate myself in the Army, and I really wanted to show our KATUSAs hidden ability."

That was something that he obviously proved to multiple board members, but that will not stop him from continuing to get better.



**P**ARK

"I'll keep trying to push and motivate myself to be a knowledgeable NCO and a good leader. I'll also motivate other KATUSAs to accomplish their mission and job by 100 percent."

The winners attended a luncheon at the Hartell House on Yongsan Sept. 14, and were awarded their certificates by Lt. Gen. Daniel J. Petrosky, EUSA commander. In addition to being awarded certificates, the three received the Army Commendation Medal.

Final EUSA selection boards were held Aug. 2 and three people participated in each category.

"It takes a serious mind to overcome all of the obstacles and iron determination to keep going."

Corey H.L. Glasford

#### FINAL FRAME

The Sokjojon, Toksu Palace in Seoul welcomes guests with sunflowers and a serene fountain.

Photo by Yo, Kyong-Il

